

# VICE ADMIRAL STEVE ABBOT, USN



COMMANDER,  
U.S. SIXTH FLEET



COMMANDER,  
NAVAL STRIKING AND  
SUPPORT FORCES,  
SOUTHERN EUROPE



Born in Pensacola, Florida, Vice Admiral Abbot graduated from the United States Naval Academy in June 1966. Vice Admiral Abbot's graduate studies include Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and the Program for Senior Officials in National Security at Harvard University. Vice Admiral Abbot also completed U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School and Naval Nuclear Power training.

After being designated a Naval Aviator in 1972, Vice Admiral Abbot completed A-7E training and squadron assignments with VA 27 on board USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 65), VA 46 on board USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CV 67), and as both Executive Officer and Commanding Officer of VA 86, embarked in USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). As a test pilot, Vice Admiral Abbot was assigned to the Strike Test Directorate at Naval Air Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland, and participated in the early flights of the T-34C, TA-7C and F/A-18.

Shipboard assignments include USS HENRY B. WILSON (DDG 7) as a newly commissioned Ensign, Executive Officer of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71),

Commanding Officer of USS CALOOSAHATCHEE (AO 98), and Commanding Officer of USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) from June 1990 until August 1992, a period that included Operation DESERT STORM. Vice Admiral Abbot then served as the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Battle Group Commander while assigned as Commander, Carrier Group EIGHT, and as Commander, Joint Task Force 120.

Vice Admiral Abbot's staff assignments include Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations for Commander Second Fleet; Director, Aircraft Carrier and Air Station Programs Division (N885) on the OPNAV staff; and Deputy Director for Operations (Current Operations) on the Joint Staff. In July 1995, he reported to duty as Director of Operations, U.S. European Command. Vice Admiral Abbot became Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, and Commander of NATO's Striking and Support Forces, Southern Europe, on July 12, 1996.

Vice Admiral Abbot is married to the former Marjorie Sellars of Cleveland, Ohio. They have three sons -- Spencer, Sebastian and Matthew.

# REAR ADMIRAL CASEY W. COANE, USNR



DEPUTY COMMANDER,  
U.S. SIXTH FLEET



Born and raised in Redondo Beach, California, RADM

Coane is the son of a career Army Officer. He attended the University of California, Berkeley. Graduating as an ensign in the ROTC program he reported to flight training in the fall of 1968.

RADM Coane's active duty assignments include: VP-46 at NAS Moffett field, California, where he served as Pilot NATOPS Officer during deployments to Alaska and Japan, with detachments to NAS Cubi Point, Philippines, in support of operations in Viet Nam, VT-5, where he served as Standardization Officer and Asst Training Officer, USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64), where he received his dual designation in Surface Warfare, while serving as OOD, Tactical Action Officer, and CDO Underway and as a COD Pilot. His next active duty assignment was on the staff of Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet. In 1995, RADM Coane completed a three month tour as Deputy Commander, Joint Task Force Southwest Asia in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. As the Navy Deputy for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH, he was responsible for enforcing United Nations sanctions against Iraq.

Reserve Force assignments include: VP-66 at NAS WILLOW GROVE, Pennsylvania and VP-94 at NAS NEW ORLEANS, where he served as Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, respectively.

During his tour as Commanding Officer, the squadron made deployments to NAF LAJES FIELD, Azores, and NAS ROTA, Spain, and earned the Battle Efficiency Award.

Subsequent Reserve Force tours included: NR Reserve Patrol Wing Atlantic 0816, where he served as Executive, and then Commanding Officer, NR COMNAVAIREASTLANT 0286, which included responsibilities as Chief of Staff, Commander Task Group 137.2. During his tour, NAVAIREASTLANT established a Forward Logistics Site at Bari, Italy, moving supplies and personnel to and from the CVBG and MARG in the Adriatic.

RADM Coane's first Flag assignment was as Deputy Commander, Maritime Surveillance and Reconnaissance Forces, U.S. SIXTH FLEET, in Naples, Italy.

Other reserve assignments include a four year tour on the Secretary of the Navy's National Naval Reserve Policy Board, Deputy Director and Director Joint Exercise Control Group for Exercise Northern Viking 89 and 91, Naval War College Reserve Course Series, NRAMS, Senior Naval Reserve Officer Orientation Course, the Reserve Components National Security Course, and the U. S. Army War College Course for Senior Reserve Officers at Carlisle Barracks.

RADM Coane is a pilot for Delta Air Lines. He and his wife Judy live in Marietta, Georgia, with their son Brian and daughter Kathryn.

# CAPTAIN DAVID M. STONE, USN



## CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. SIXTH FLEET



Captain David M. Stone is a native of Algonquin, Illinois. He received his commission upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1974. Following graduation he was assigned to USS VREELAND (FF 1068) forward deployed and homeported in Elefsis, Greece, where he served as CIC Officer, Damage Control Assistant, First Lieutenant and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. In September 1977, Captain Stone reported to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, where he earned a Masters degree in National Security Affairs. Following completion of Surface Warfare Officer Department Head School, he reported in January 1980 to USS CARON (DD 970 in Norfolk, VA, as the Engineer Officer. During his tour, the ship deployed to the North Atlantic, Mediterranean and Black Sea. In November 1981, Captain Stone assumed duties as the commissioning Executive Officer in USS GEMINI (PHM 6) homeported in Key West, FL. He was subsequently assigned to the staff of Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Twelve in Mayport, FL, as the assistant Chief of Staff for Material from 1983 to 1985. During his assignment, the staff deployed to the Mediterranean as Commander, Task Force SIX ZERO. In June 1986, Captain Stone completed study at the United States Naval War College in Newport, RI, receiving a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. During this tour, he also earned a Master of Science Degree in Management from Salve Regina College. From September 1986 until February 1988, he served as Executive Officer in USS RICHMOND K. TURNER (CG 20)

and deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of Earnest Will Escort Missions where the ship performed duties as the Gulf Anti-Air Warfare Commander. In March 1988, he commenced a joint assignment as a Special Assistant to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Allied Forces Southern Europe in Naples, Italy. Following his joint tour and prior to his assumption of duties as Commanding Officer in USS JOHN HANCOCK (DD 981), Captain Stone was temporarily assigned to the Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group Twelve staff, where he participated in the EISENHOWER Battle Group Red Sea deployment in support of Operation Desert Shield. During his June 1991 to April 1993 command tour in USS JOHN HANCOCK, the ship conducted Red Sea Maritime Interception Operations, Mediterranean and Arabian Gulf Tomahawk Contingency Tasking, Eastern Pacific Counter-Drug Missions and Norwegian Fjord NATO Exercises. Following a tour in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Head of the Warfare Policy Branch (N512), Captain Stone served as Commander Middle East Force/Commander Destroyer Squadron Fifty forward based in Bahrain from November 1994 to July 1996. He assumed duties as the Chief of Staff United States Sixth Fleet in August 1996.

His military decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy Achievement Medal, and various other service medals and unit awards.

Captain Stone married the former Cynthia Faith Voth of Clearwater, Florida in 1977.

# CAPTAIN BRUCE W. CLINGAN, USN



COMMANDING OFFICER,  
U.S.S. LA SALLE



Captain Bruce W. Clingan was born in Lafayette, Indiana and raised in Bellevue, Washington. He graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Science degree in June 1977.

In May 1979, he was designated a naval aviator and reported to Fighter Squadron One Hundred Twenty Four for replacement training in the F-14 Tomcat. After completing the Fleet Readiness Squadron in July 1980, he was assigned to Fighter Squadron One Hundred Fourteen where he participated in two extended Indian Ocean deployments on board USS America (CVN 66) and USS Enterprise (CVN 65).

Captain Clingan received orders back to Fighter Squadron One Hundred Twenty Four as an F-14 flight instructor in October 1983 and was recognized as Instructor of the Year and Top Cat of the Year in 1985. In addition to his instructor responsibilities, he worked with Naval Air Systems Command and Grumman Aerospace Corporation to develop the F-14D Super Tomcat as a member of the Aircrew Systems Advisory Panel. He returned to sea duty in April 1986 and served on board USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and USS Nimitz (CVN 68) as Maintenance Officer with Fighter Squadron Two Hundred Eleven. While attached to VF-211, he earned a Master of Science degree from the University of Southern California.

In July 1988, he was assigned to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe in Mons, Belgium as a Joint Service Officer in the Operations and Readiness Branch. During this tour, he served as a member of the Tactical Steering Group on Air Operations in the North/Norwegian Seas, and as a representative on the NATO/Spanish Coordination Agreement negotiating team.

Returning to the United States in November 1990, Captain Clingan reported to Fighter Squadron Eleven as Executive Officer in August 1991, during an Eastern Mediterranean deployment in support of Operation Provide Comfort. Captain Clingan assumed command of Fighter Squadron Eleven in December 1992.

In February 1994, Captain Clingan was selected to attend Naval Nuclear Power School. Following extensive nuclear training, he joined the crew of Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) as Executive Officer in November 1995 where he served until May 1997.

During his career, Captain Clingan has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, three Navy Achievement Medals, Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal and various campaign and unit awards.

Captain Clingan is married to the former Marianne Spangler of Baltimore, Maryland. They and their daughter, Savannah, reside in Gaeta, Italy.



# U.S. SIXTH FLEET

## *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

The United States Sixth Fleet consists of the American ships and aircraft that operate in the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and adjacent areas. Divided into task forces, American naval forces forward deployed to the Sixth Fleet usually include an Aircraft Carrier Battle Group, Amphibious Readiness Group, Marine Expeditionary Unit and various support ships, land-based patrol aircraft and nuclear-powered submarines.

The U.S. has maintained a naval presence in the Mediterranean since the early 19th Century. During the Second World War, U.S. naval forces engaged the enemy at sea and supported the Allied invasion of North Africa, amphibious landings in Sicily and Anzio, and the liberation of southern France.

In succeeding years, U.S. naval presence in the Mediterranean became a fundamental element of the defense strategies of the United States and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The forward deployment of American naval forces demonstrated the commitment of the U.S. to peace and stability and helped deter unwanted aggression. U.S. Sixth Fleet participation in NATO operations and exercises was a key element of American naval operations in the region.

With the break up of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact, the Fleet developed a systematic approach to forward presence operations that matched the changing security environment of Europe. Called the Peacetime Engagement Plan, today this strategy includes exercises and operations promoting interoperability and mutual cooperation among Mediterranean and Black Sea littoral nations. Unchanged in this post-Cold War period is the Fleet's

commitment to NATO, combat readiness and the capability to respond to crisis situations.

Over the past year the ships and aircraft of the Sixth Fleet have participated in several major operations and exercises. This included maritime peace implementation operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor) and the evacuation of U.S. and other civilians caught in Liberia's civil war (Operation Assured Response). In September 1995 U.S. naval forces operating in the Adriatic conducted sustained air operations and the first-ever launch of cruise missiles in the Mediterranean. These operations (Operation Deliberate Force) helped bring warring parties from Bosnia-Herzegovina to the peace table. A planned and coordinated series of bilateral and multi-lateral exercises, ranging from the Black Sea to the western Mediterranean, rounded out Sixth Fleet operations.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet remains forward deployed and committed to peace and stability in the region. This "Power for Peace" promotes peaceful activities among maritime nations in the Mediterranean and Black Sea littoral areas and remains ready to respond to crisis situations.



# ORGANIZATION OF THE SIXTH FLEET

**T**he United States Sixth Fleet is operationally organized into task forces. Each task force is responsible to the Sixth Fleet Commander for specific functions related to assigned units.

• **Task Force 60 is Sixth Fleet's Battle Force.** It is composed of one or more aircraft carriers, each with an accompanying complement of approximately six cruisers and destroyers. On board the aircraft carrier is an airwing of 65-85 aircraft. The airwing is the primary striking arm of the Battle Force and includes attack, fighter, anti-submarine and reconnaissance aircraft. Ships accompanying the carrier serve as defensive and offensive platforms with duties involving strike, anti-air, surface and submarine warfare. In addition to its major role of controlling the seas, the battle force also projects power "forward...from the sea."

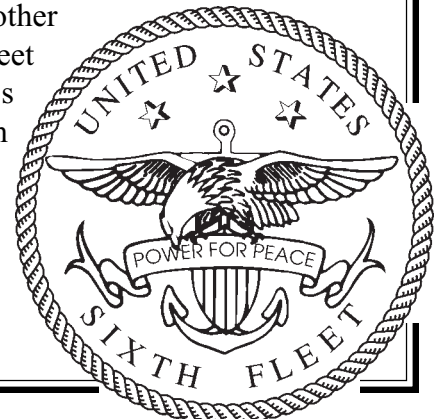
• **Task Force 61 is the Mediterranean Amphibious Ready Group (MARG).** It is composed of approximately three amphibious ships and their embarked landing craft. From these ships, United States Marine ground forces can move ashore by sea and air in amphibious assault or emergency evacuation missions. Once ashore, the ships of Task Force 61 logistically support the ground forces, until the objective of the landing has been achieved and the Marine forces return to the ships.

• **Task Force 62 is the Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).** This combat-ready ground force is composed of approximately 1,800 Marines. Transported in Task Force 61 ships, the MEU is equipped with armor, artillery and transport helicopters that enable it to conduct operations ashore or evacuate civilians from troubled areas.

• **Task Force 63 is the Logistics Force.** Composed of oilers, provision ships and repair ships, its mission is the delivery of supplies at sea, and accomplishing emergent repairs for the ships of the fleet.

• **Task Force 67 is composed of land-based maritime patrol aircraft.** These aircraft operate over the waters of the Mediterranean -- and in littoral areas -- in anti-submarine, reconnaissance, surveillance and mining roles.

• **Task Force 69 is the Submarine Force.** It is responsible for planning and coordinating submarine and anti-submarine warfare operations in the Mediterranean. Specifically, Task Force 69 is composed of attack submarines that provide the capability to destroy enemy surface ships and submarines as well as protect other Sixth Fleet ships from attack.



# USS LA SALLE (AGF 3)

## *The Attack Flagship*



Commander, Middle East Force. Forward-deployed to Bahrain and painted white to reflect the Middle East sun, "The Great White Ghost of the Arabian Coast" steamed an average of 55,000 miles annually in that role.

At the onset of the Iranian hostage crisis in 1979, La Salle assisted in the evacuation of 260 Americans and other nation civilians from Bandar Abbas, Iran. In May 1987, La Salle rushed to the aid of the stricken frigate, USS Stark, which was adrift and still burning following an Iraqi missile attack. La Salle provided crucial firefighting, damage control and medical aid, while serving as a central base for all functions related to the incident until USS Acadia arrived on scene in June.

The latest chapter in the La Salle legacy occurred when it and five other ships in the Persian Gulf were the U.S. Navy presence during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Over the course of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, La Salle assumed the added responsibility of controlling and coordinating the Maritime Intercept Force and served concurrently as flagship for Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Central Command. On March 12, 1991, USS La Salle became the first United States Navy warship to enter the newly liberated port of Ash Shuaybah, Kuwait.

Prior to assuming the role of Sixth Fleet command ship, La Salle underwent an extensive yard period to upgrade its capabilities.



**U**SS La Salle (AGF 3) became the U.S. Sixth Fleet Command Ship on November 8, 1994. For the past 30 years, La Salle has served the U.S. Navy with mobility, flexibility and versatility. Those were the trademarks of the family of amphibious transport dock (LPD) ships from which La Salle hailed.

La Salle has made significant contributions to our nation's maritime history. Following commissioning, La Salle served as flagship for Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Forces during the Dominican Crisis and participated in the evacuation of Construction Battalion Six from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. In 1966, it became the first ship of its size to successfully recover and return a Project Gemini space capsule to Cape Canaveral. During 1969, La Salle served as the test platform for the prototype AV-8 Harrier VTOL (Vertical Take-Off and Landing) fighter bomber.

In 1972, La Salle was designated a Miscellaneous Command Ship (AGF) and assumed duties as the flagship for



# USS LA SALLE (AGF 3)

## *Command Ship Facts & Stats*



<b>Navy Designation</b> .....	AGF 3 (formerly LPD 3)
<b>Vessel Type</b> .....	Miscellaneous Command Ship
<b>Builder</b> .....	New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, NY
<b>Keel Laid</b> .....	April 2, 1962
<b>Launched</b> .....	August 3, 1963
<b>Commissioned</b> .....	February 22, 1964
<b>Length</b> .....	521 feet
<b>Beam</b> .....	84 feet
<b>Draft</b> .....	21 feet
<b>Displacement (full load)</b> .....	13,900 tons
<b>Main Propulsion System</b> .....	De Laval Steam Turbines; twin shafts
<b>Propellers</b> .....	Two (combined 24,000 shp)
<b>Boilers</b> .....	Two Babcock & Wilcox (600 psi)
<b>Speed</b> .....	20 Knots (sustained)/21.6 Knots (maximum)
<b>Armament</b> .....	Two 20mm MK 16 Phalanx Close-In Weapons Systems
<b>Complement: Ship's Company</b> .....	490 Enlisted/21 Officers
<b>Staff</b> .....	90 Enlisted/48 Officers

**THE SHIP'S CREST:** The ship's crest combines features relating to the explorer, the city and the ship's mission. The upper right corner bears symbols from the coat-of-arms of La Salle's family, an eight point star and a rabbit. The fort on the lower left side represents Fort St. Louis, which was built by La Salle in 1682 on the banks of the Illinois River. The elevated ground on which the fort stands is known as "Starved Rock." The city of La Salle is not far from the site of this fort. The background anchor symbolizes the Navy and the sea; the motto across the anchor's base, "Facilitas Ad Marem," translates to "Versatility at Sea."

**THE SHIP'S MISSION:** As a forward-deployed unit, La Salle's primary mission is to provide command ship facilities and support to Commander, U.S. Sixth Fleet, and his embarked staff.

La Salle assumed the role of command ship for the U.S. Sixth Fleet on November 8, 1994, bringing expanded capabilities to the fleet.

With the capability and space available to embark a Joint Task Force staff, La Salle greatly increases the flexibility of the U.S. Sixth Fleet Commander and his staff.

Additionally, La Salle has been outfitted with state-of-the-art communication, command and control electronic equipment.

Any operation or exercise involving sea, air, land, and amphibious forces can be controlled and directed from the flagship while at sea or in port.





# COMMUNICATION POINTS ABOUT THE NAVY AND SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONS

## ***"Forward... From the Sea"***

***Evolution of Naval Strategy*** - The Navy-Marine Corps' strategic white paper — "Forward... from the Sea" — defines the new direction for naval services following the fall of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact. Within the framework of U.S. national security requirements, the strategy highlights forward deployed operations and the expeditionary role of naval forces in littoral areas. It also discusses the integral role of naval forces in the joint and combined operations.

There are several important examples of U.S. Sixth Fleet "Forward... from the Sea" operations in the past year. These include maritime peace implementation operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina (Operation Joint Endeavor) from December through February 1996, and the Navy-Marine Corps' evacuation of U.S. and other civilians caught in Liberia's civil war (Operation Assured Response) that began in April 1996.

In September 1995 U.S. naval forces operating in the Adriatic conducted sustained air operations and the first ever launch of cruise missiles in the Mediterranean. These operations (Operation Deliberate Force) helped bring warring parties from Bosnia-Herzegovina to the peace table in Dayton, Ohio.

***Deterrent to conventional war*** - A forward-deployed, global Navy-Marine Corps team supports our national interests and serves as a deterrent to aggression. This team is a mobile, flexible and self-sustaining force capable of conducting forward deployed presence and crisis response missions.

U.S. naval presence in the Mediterranean is a fundamental element of the defense strategy of the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The forward deployment of naval forces to this area demonstrates U.S. commitment to regional peace and stability and tells would-be aggressors to beware.

***Navy-Marine Corps readiness*** - The Navy-Marine Corps team's force structure is tailored to meet our national security objectives and alliance commitments. The U.S. Sixth Fleet's "force structure" usually consists of an aircraft carrier battle group, an amphibious ready group with an embarked Marine Expeditionary Unit,

and various support ships, land-based patrol aircraft and nuclear-powered attack submarines.

Navy and Marine Corps commands train to maintain perishable warfighting skills, which ensures immediate responsiveness to tasking from higher authority. U.S. Sixth Fleet participation in bi-lateral, multi-lateral and NATO alliance exercises is a key element of our naval operations in this region.

***End of the Cold War*** - An important element of European security architecture includes defense cooperation and open dialogue among the navies of the region. The Sixth Fleet Peacetime Engagement Plan flowed from new strategic directions ("Forward... From the Sea") and the security environment in Europe.

The Fleet's engagement plan emphasizes specific operations, exercises and initiatives. Each of these is designed to promote interoperability and mutual cooperation among Allied and friendly Mediterranean and Black Sea littoral nations.

***Crossroads of the World*** - The Mediterranean is a vital crossroads of the world. In this theater Europe meets Asia and developed nations meet developing nations. U.S. support for political and military operations — be they in the Mediterranean, Middle East, Balkans, or North Africa — depends upon access to and passage through the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean is also the gateway to the Black Sea. The Sixth Fleet's participation in exercises with newly emerging democracies in this region — which promote interoperability and mutual cooperation — are a key element of the Fleet's Peacetime Engagement Plan.

The U.S. Sixth Fleet remains forward deployed and committed to peace and stability at these vital crossroads. This "Power for Peace" promotes peaceful activities among maritime nations in the Mediterranean and Black Sea littoral areas and remains ready to respond to crisis situations.